

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN
JOHN LEWIS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and praise Congressman JOHN LEWIS for visiting New Bedford, MA, this past week, to discuss his important involvement with the American Civil Rights Movement, and to remind all of us how we need to find the courage to continue the Movement.

I'd also like to thank Congressman BARNEY FRANK for inviting Congressman LEWIS to speak. The two Congressmen are friends of more than 40 years, and as Congressman FRANK states, Representative LEWIS continues to be "one of the great moral forces in this country."

Representative LEWIS, a great hero of the American Civil Rights Movement, spoke to 1400-plus students and teachers at New Bedford High School, sharing his experiences growing up in the segregated South, and his eventual involvement with nonviolent protests.

Congressman LEWIS told the students "that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

I would like to place into the RECORD the following editorial, *Timely Message* from John Lewis, which appeared in the June 1, 2006, edition of the *New Bedford Standard-Times*.

[From the *New Bedford Times*, June 1, 2006]

TIMELY MESSAGE FROM JOHN LEWIS

Whether it was the hand of the almighty or simply the good sense of our local congressman, Barney Frank, yesterday's visit to New Bedford by U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the great heroes of the American Civil Rights Movement, could not have been timed more perfectly.

The 56-year-old Rep. Lewis, who is the son of a sharecropper born in segregated Alabama, brought a message of hope and healing to a city preparing to bury Bernadette DePina, who was shot to death in her home last week, just day's after her 23-year-old son David DePina II's arrest on charges of murdering a 29-year-old man.

Rep. Lewis didn't talk about crime or punishment or politics. He talked about growing up poor in the segregated South, about being inspired as a 15-year-old listening to the radio by the actions of the late Rosa Parks and the soaring words of a young black minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to stand up for the dignity of all and "to find a way to get in the way" of those who would deny others that dignity.

And that's what he did. Arrested scores of times in nonviolent protest of discriminatory voting practices, segregated schools, lunch counters and public transportation, he was threatened, beaten, spit upon and hated by Southern whites trying to maintain the legalized segregation of the Jim Crow south. He has faced trouble, counted losses and continued his fight as what Congressman Frank—his friend for more than 40 years—calls "one of the great moral forces in this country."

"I am not bitter today, and I am not going to be bitter tomorrow," Rep. Lewis said.

And then he said something important to the community of New Bedford, which some fear has split along racial, ethnic, neighborhood and economic fault lines.

"We are one people," he said in the soaring voice of the preacher he grew up wanting to be, with the same simple conviction that powered Dr. King. "We all need each other. We all live in the same house."

He cautioned 1,400 sophomores and juniors at New Bedford High School not to grow bitter but to become involved in their own mission to make things better for all. He urged the students to register to vote and to vote when they turn 18, a privilege he marched for four decades ago.

The congressman told the students that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

"And it will be the children in New Bedford who will say, 'We're going to live in peace because we are all brothers and sisters.'"

His words inspired a standing ovation in the packed high school hall. They stirred the imagination of Stephanie Houtman, 15, a sophomore. "He was talking about how they burned his back with cigarettes," Yet he did not relent. He did not stir from the segregated lunch counter.

Dominick Baptiste, 16, walked out of the auditorium with a broad smile on his face at the end of the speech. "It made me feel good to know that people can fight racism," he said. "The fact that he was able to find the courage to sit at the white table. The fact that he was able to go back again and again."

The congressman's visit reminded the city of what we all know.

What happens to a family on Ash Street or at Monte Park or the United Front or County Street happens to all of us. An unless we let our own bitterness go, unless we reach across the way to our neighbor, we will never be what we want to be, what we should be.

It ought not take a visit by a congressman from Georgia to remind us of that. Deep down, we all know it. Having the courage to do something about it is the real test.

**THE BURNING OF AFGHAN
SCHOOLS**

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about reports that schools in Afghanistan continue to be destroyed. I recently met with Dr. Sima Samar, chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, who reported to me that since 2005, dozens of schools have been burned. Dr. Samar works courageously every day, under threat of personal attack, to ensure that the rights of Afghan citizens, including women and children, are protected. I strongly agree with her that to truly be empowered, Afghan women and girls must be educated.

I urge the U.S. State Department to take immediate action to ensure that Afghan children and women can be educated without fear of violence. This is truly vital to the future of Afghanistan. Although the lives of some women are improving, for far too many, the situation has remained the same. They continue to endure hardships including targeted violence, limited mobility, illiteracy, and a high rate of maternal mortality. By giving women access to the skills and opportunities that they need to become partners in creating Afghanistan's future, we will ensure that women will no longer

be second-class citizens. We cannot afford to wait.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF AMY
BRYANT KIRKPATRICK**

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute, on the anniversary of her passing, to Amy Bryant Kirkpatrick of Granbury, Texas. Mrs. Kirkpatrick passed away June 6, 2005 after a long and fierce battle with cancer at the age of 27.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born April 20, 1978 in Denton, Texas to parents Donald and Becky Bryant of Valley View, Texas. She was raised in Valley View and graduated from Valley View High School in 1996. Amy was the spiritual and kinetic center of her family, and was always a beam of light for her family to center around. As a devoted daughter, Amy served her parents as a shining example of caring upbringing through her awards and accolades and most importantly her character. She also served as an inspiring and loving sister to her brother Dustin Bryant. Through thick and thin, Amy always let her character and love for her family guide her through life and this outlook would lead her through struggles later on.

Amy's contagious character and spirit was a draw for many, and it is no doubt that this led to her to the destiny of meeting the love of her life. She met and later married Lance Kirkpatrick of Burleson, Texas on May 23, 1998. They shared a love that stayed true to the vows made at their wedding. Through sickness and in health, for richer and poorer, till death do them part, Lance and Amy personified these vows in the seven years of their marriage.

Answering the call of the passion in her life, Amy sought in her studies a chance to help others, particularly children. After graduating from Tarleton State University in 2000, Amy taught special education for Granbury ISD in Granbury, Texas. She chose to teach students with emotional and behavioral disorders, as it was up to her to guide these children who many had neglected. She saw in them what many others chose to look past, and that was hope. Through her sickness, Amy would only miss a day a week during her chemotherapy treatments to be away from her students. She did instill stability as well as earn the trust of these previously ignored children. During her second year of teaching, the Masonic Lodge of Granbury honored Amy as the Outstanding Teacher of Granbury ISD. In 2005, Amy was once again honored as Outstanding Teacher of the Year by Wal-Mart. The recognition of these awards truly highlights the dedication and devotion that Amy had toward disadvantaged students. She has made a long and lasting impact on many children she taught, as well as her colleagues. Beyond her awards and recognition, Amy will be remembered as a teacher who cared about her students when society was not as compassionate.

Fulfilling her life's dream, Amy gave birth to a precious daughter, Hannah Grace on December 19, 2003. As a child she was told she would never have, Hannah was truly the calm